

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 202479

FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN 3753 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 21 AUG

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3753

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, IT, PARM, GR, PO, SP, TU

SUBJ: COMMENTS BY DEPARTING ITALIAN PERMREP ON HELSINKI
MEETING

1. IN FAREWELL CALL AUGUST 20 ON AMBASSADOR BENNETT, DEPARTING ITALIAN PERM REP PLAJA, NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLITICAL DEPARTMENT IN ITALIAN FOREIGN OFFICE, DESCRIBED HIS ATTENDANCE AT HELSINKI FOR SIGNING OF SECURITY DECLARATION. PLAJA SAID HE HAD FOUND PROCEEDINGS INTERESTING, BUT PROFOUNDLY DISTURBING. HE THOUGHT THE "EMBRACE" HAD BEEN TOO EFFUSIVE. HE TOOK POSITION SOVIETS HAD GOT WHAT THEY WANTED WHEREAS HE HAD CONCERN OVER EFFECTS OF RELAXATION LIKELY TO TAKE PLACE IN WESTERN COUNTRIES. HE WAS WORRIED OVER IMPRESSION CAUSED AMONG PEOPLES OF WESTERN EUROPE THROUGH SEEING SOVIET LEADERS ACCEPTED AS "JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELES" AND GIVEN TICKETS OF GOOD BEHAVIOR. OF COURSE HE WAS NOT WORRIED ABOUT THE UNITED STATES, HE SAID; HE HAD IN MIND COUNTRIES WHERE INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATIONS WERE UNCERTAIN AND UNSTABLE. HE MADE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO ITALY, GREECE, TURKEY, PORTUGAL AND
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SPAIN IN THIS CONNECTION.

2. BENNETT CALLED ATTENTION TO SPECIFIC REFERENCES IN
PRESIDENT FORD'S MINNEAPOLIS SPEECH TO ARMS LIMITATIONS
AND PORTUGUESE SITUATION, AND PLAJA EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION
THAT U.S. LEADERSHIP ALERT TO PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN
SOVIET EXPLOITATION OF DETENTE.
BENNETT UNPTE INGERSOLL

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